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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: 7/24/90
 TAGS: PREL, PGDV, US, RP
 SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER TOLENTINO ENDORSES CONTINUING
 - U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN PHILIPPINES

1. (U) ON JULY 22 FOREIGN MINISTER ARTURO TOLENTINO DISCUSSED U.S. MILITARY FACILITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES IN A TALK WITH NEWSMEN IN BACOLOD, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL.
2. (U) TOLENTINO CITED THE PRESENCE OF U.S. BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES AS A STABILIZING INFLUENCE IN THE REGION, NOTING THE CONTINUING BUILDUP OF MILITARY FORCES BY THE SOVIET UNION IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND IN VIETNAM.
3. (U) HE CHARACTERIZED THE PROVISION OF THE MILITARY BASES AGREEMENT, WHICH CALLS FOR A REVIEW EVERY FIVE YEARS, AS A "SAFETY VALVE" WHICH ENABLES FILIPINO LEADERS TO DETERMINE WHETHER CONTINUED U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE COUNTRY SERVES THE INTERESTS OF THE PHILIPPINES.
4. (U) TOLENTINO SAID THAT A REMOVAL OF THE U.S. FACILITIES WOULD CREATE A POWER VACUUM IN THE REGION WHICH THE SOVIET UNION WOULD TRY TO FILL.

COMMENT

5. (C) THIS IS THE CLEAREST STATEMENT YET BY THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER ON THE U.S. MILITARY FACILITIES. IT TRACKS WITH WHAT PRESIDENT MARCOS TOLD CODEL EDWARDS JULY 17. BOSWORTH

END OF MESSAGE

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State Dept. review completed

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